

## Making the Little Farm Pay

By C. C. BOWSFIELD

Waste and neglect in the average apple orchard are plain evidence of bad farming. An orchard of a single acre properly managed will give a revenue of \$200 or \$300 yearly, and besides this it is important to the owner's family. Fruit trees should receive intelligent care.

Orchards are not sprayed and pruned in a systematic way, because this kind of work can be put off, and there is always something else demanding attention. Good farming gives every feature on the place due attention, whether the product is for market or merely for home use. If this be done the fruit in small orchards will be sounder and more uniform than it usually is, the family will get increased benefit from it and revenue will be gained at the rate of at least \$200 an acre.

When orchards are neglected the fruit deteriorates in quality, and much of it is allowed to rot on the ground. Even the farmer's family gets only a meager supply. An apple orchard ought to be an object of pride, and if the owner feels that he is too busy to attend to it he should turn it over to



FRUIT TREES SHOULD RECEIVE INTELLIGENT CARE.

his wife or to the young people in the family. Most likely they will get some good experience and quite a little profit thereby.

All farmers and their families should study up on canning methods so that surplus fruit can be saved in the most profitable way. This is equally important with spraying and pruning. Canned apples are in general demand. Cider and cider vinegar are also readily sold at good prices. It is wrong to let good fruit go to waste when it is so greatly needed by the human family.

It is possible to pick up windfalls and make cider of them or sell them to the canning houses. It is still better to can them at home, but in many instances they are allowed to go to waste, although in all cities and villages and often in the open country there are many worthy families, some of them destitute, who would be greatly encouraged and helped by a few bushels or barrels.

The cause of poor hatches of poultry is a much discussed question. A poor hatch is more apt to be due to the condition of the eggs previous to hatching than to incubation, although improper handling of either factor will produce the same results. When eggs fail to hatch an investigation should be made to see if the breeding stock is kept under conditions which tend to produce strong, fertile germs in the eggs. A daily temperature record should be kept of each machine. The operator can thus compare the temperature at which the machines have been kept. This may prove valuable in future work, especially if the brooder records can be checked back against those of the incubator.

The climate of the central northern states is well suited to the quince, and almost any of the soils that are rich enough to grow good crops of corn, potatoes or garden stuff would be in right condition. It may be heavy clay or of a sandy nature, for this tree will flourish in either kind. Plenty of rich and well rotted stable manure will help the soil. The trees may be planted in the spring or fall, the latter being preferred, because the trees get well settled in the ground and start early to grow the next spring. The proper distance apart to set the trees is about twenty feet. They should begin to bear in about five years from the time of planting, but may do so a little earlier if well treated. The Orange and Meech are two of the best early kinds, and Champion and Van Deman are good late ones.

### Rhubarb From Seed.

The usual practice is to propagate rhubarb from pieces of root, but it is economical and easy to grow the plants from seed. By planting seed in very rich, well prepared soil where the seedlings are to remain permanently stalks may be had ready for cutting about as soon as when root planting is followed.

### Instinct of Blackbirds.

While residing in the country some years ago and walking out one evening I found a nest of young blackbirds. The young birds were almost fledged. Taking them home with me, I put them in a cage and the next morning hung them out under a tree, and in about an hour I saw the old birds at the cage, evidently delighted to find their young. The old birds came regularly every two hours and fed them with worms and grubs. This continued for two days, the old birds trying all in their power to get the young ones out. On the third day I noticed the old birds bring a berry, which they gave the young ones, two of which died that evening and the rest next day. The old birds then left off coming. The berries on examination proved to be the seeds of the Atropa belladonna or deadly nightshade. This convinced me of what I had heard about these birds destroying their young if allowed to feed them in imprisonment. I am told that other birds have the same instinct.—Liverpool Post.

### Sincerity in Art.

Only an honest book can live: only absolute sincerity can stand the test of time. Any selfish or secondary motive vitiates a work of art, as it vitiates a religious life. Indeed, I doubt if we fully appreciate the literary value of the stable, fundamental human virtues and qualities—probity, directness, simplicity, sincerity, love. There are just as much room and need for the exercise of these qualities in the making of a book as in the building of a house or in a business career. How conspicuous they are in all the enduring books—in Bunyan, in Walton, in Defoe, in the Bible! It is they that keep alive such a book as "Two Years Before the Mast," which Stevenson pronounced the best sea story in the language, as it undoubtedly is.—John Burroughs.

### How to Soften the Elbows.

Sometimes a woman who has a pretty arm is troubled with dark, rough elbows and coarse skin on the back of the arm just above the elbow. In either case it will take some time to restore the original soft white flesh. Purchase some liquid green soap, which is really yellow in color, make a good lather with it and rub it well into the skin. Leave it on for about five minutes, then rub it off thoroughly with warm water and dry very carefully. Careless drying of this part of the arms is the usual cause of the roughened skin. After the cleansing apply a skin food, rubbing it in well.

If the harsh surface does not yield readily rub the rough place with a pumice stone, then treat as described.—Woman's World.

### Saved the Scene.

John Galsworthy, the English playwright, tells of the wit of an actor named Littledale, who in one play had to leap into a river to escape a wild beast.

"The stage was so arranged that the river was invisible. Littledale's leap usually ended on a soft mattress in the wings, while a rock was dropped into a tub of water to create a splash. Everything went on all right at rehearsal, and the night of actual performance came. When poor Littledale jumped he fell eight feet and landed on an oaken floor with a crash.

"The audience set up a titter. But the heroic Littledale was quite equal to the occasion. 'Heavens,' he shouted, 'the water's frozen!'"

### Much the Simpler Plan.

Mr. Newedd—Well, we are beginning housekeeping, and I presume the simplest plan will be for me to give you a regular amount every week for expenses. Just figure up what it will cost.

Mrs. Newedd—I could never do that in the world—so many things to count, you know—but let me see. Oh, I have it! I have thought of a much simpler plan.

"All right, my angel! What is it?" "You figure up what it will cost you for car fare and lunches and give me the rest."—New York Weekly.

### Florence Nightingale.

There is a story that after the return to England of the troops from the Crimea Lord Stratford at a dinner suggested that those present should write on a piece of paper the name of the person whose Crimean reputation would endure longest. When the votes came to be examined it was found that not a single soldier had received a vote. Every paper bore the same two words—Florence Nightingale.

### La Politesse.

The Fair One—Oh, I wished I had lived a hundred years ago. The Other One—But then you would be a long time dead and would not be sitting here happily by my side. The Fair One—True, true! So I couldn't! Forgive me, dearest!—New York Post.

### The Greatest Financier.

"Who was the greatest financier ever known?" "Noah, because he floated his stock when the whole world was in liquidation."

### Accommodating.

Jinks—Have you got quarters for a dollar, old man? Winks—My vest pocket is rather crowded, but pass it over and I'll try to make room for it.

### Hope.

When Thales was asked what is most universal he answered hope, for hope stays with those who have nothing else.—Epictetus.

The normal school turns out professors of philosophy. Only the school of life produces philosophers.

### MULCHING.

Nitrate of soda can be used with benefit on all crops. It is immediately available and should therefore be only employed in connection with plants in an active stage of growth.

There is far too little mulching done. Small fruit trees and garden crops are given a most favorable opportunity for attaining the highest perfection and development when their roots are covered with a thick mat of leaves, hay or other suitable material.

A good mulch keeps down weeds and renders the soil loose, moist and porous at all times, and that, too, with little labor of cultivation.

### HOW TO GROW ALFALFA.

Information issued by the New York State College of Agriculture.

Alfalfa will grow on almost any type of productive soil if it is well drained and if it is not acid. Lime must be applied to at least three-fourths of the cultivated soils of New York if alfalfa is to be grown successfully. Such are the statements made in a publication entitled "Alfalfa in New York," recently issued by the New York State College of Agriculture.

In many cases soil must be inoculated with nitrogen gathering bacteria for alfalfa, and this may be done in either of two ways, according to the college. Soil may be procured from an alfalfa field or a sweet clover patch and applied at the rate of from 200 to 300 pounds an acre to the new field just before sowing. This soil should not be allowed to dry before it is applied. The other method of inoculation is by means of cultures, which may be obtained at cost either from the United States department of agriculture or from the State College of Agriculture at Cornell.

Alfalfa should be cut when the new growth from the base of the plant is from one to three inches high, regardless of whether the plant is in bloom or not, so the college authorities state. This new growth starts as the plants reach maturity.

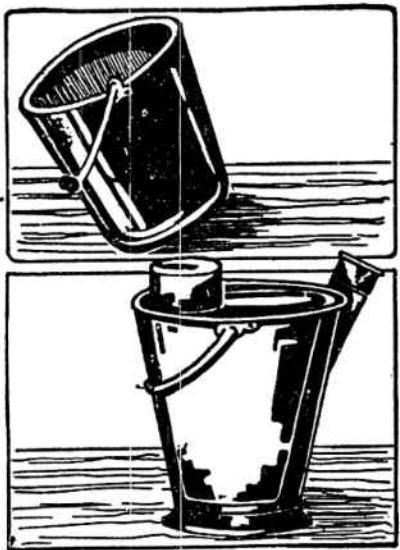
Care should be taken not to use alfalfa seed infested with dodder. Dodder seeds may be removed, it is said, by screening the seed in small quantities through a 20 by 20 mesh sieve made of No. 34 wire. Dodder infested spots in an alfalfa field should be closely mowed, the stubble sprinkled with kerosene, then covered with dry hay and burned.

### Shelter For Brood Sows.

The brood sow should have a comfortable shelter in winter. Good shelter, preferably in a cot well supplied with straw, will contribute to her well being, and in that lies strength for her offspring. The shelter should be placed a considerable distance from her feeding place in order that she may be compelled to take exercise. Her feed should consist of bulky foods, such as milk, roots and clover hay and enough grain to keep her in good condition without causing her to put on fat.

### Dirt In the Milk.

Much of the dirt found in milk gets there during the milking. Any pail that will keep out cow hairs, dandruff, dust, pieces of dried manure, chaff and hay is a good pail. The difference be-



tween open and closed pails in the matter of cleanliness is considerable. The less open space the less opportunity for dirt and bacteria to get into the pail while the cow is being milked. On most dairy farms the old style pail with the flaring top has been replaced by something that will aid in keeping out the dirt.

### SOME BEE WISDOM.

"Any old thing" does not make a suitable hive in which to keep bees.

Queens are mated but once in their lives and then out in the open air.

Beating the dishpan or ringing the dinner bell never settled a swarm; they just naturally cluster after leaving the hive.

Bees have no more to do with the scattering of fruit diseases than do the other hundreds of insects that visit the flowers.

It is not a sign of ability to make a practice of trying to handle bees without smoker or veil; it's just foolhardiness.

It does not pay to keep more colonies than can be properly cared for. Better sell off some than buy more and not care for them.

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